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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A latch arrangement comprising;

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein ~~it~~the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually ~~actuatable~~actuatable element does not cause unlatching and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually ~~actuatable~~actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position, and during subsequent movement of the manually ~~actuatable~~actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment operable to move a latch release element, movement of the release mechanism with the control element in the unlocked condition causes the abutment to move in a first path, and movement of the release mechanism with the control element in the locked condition causes the abutment to move in a second path, differing from the first path, in which the first path passes through ~~a rest position~~the unlocked position of the latch release element, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by a control pawl to provide for the locked condition.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The latch arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which when the control element is in the locked condition, actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the abutment, but the abutment does not move the latch release element.

4. (CANCELLED)

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5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The latch arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which the release link is operably movable by a release lever.

6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The latch arrangement as defined in ~~claim 6~~claim 1 in which ~~the locked condition can additionally be provided by~~ said part of the release mechanism ~~is~~being retained by magnetic attraction.

8. (CANCELLED)

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9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A latch arrangement as defined in claim 6 in which A latch arrangement comprising;~~

~~a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the manually actuatable element unlatches the latch, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element does not cause unlatching and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position, and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment operable to move a latch release element, movement of the release mechanism with the control element in the unlocked condition causes the abutment to move in a first path, and movement of the release mechanism with the control element in the locked condition causes the abutment to move in a second path, differing from the first path, in which the first path passes through the unlocked position of the latch release element, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by the control element to provide for the locked condition and said part of the release mechanism is a lock/unlock lever which is retained in a first position when the control element is in its the locked condition and is allowed to be moved to a second position when the control element is in its the unlocked condition.~~

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The latch arrangement as defined in claim 9 in which the lock/unlock lever is connected to the release link by a connector.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The latch arrangement as defined in claim 10 in which the lock/unlock lever, connector and release link substantially move in unison during said initial movement of the manually actuatable element.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The latch arrangement as defined in claim 11 in which the lock/unlock lever, connector and release link rotate about a pivot during said initial movement.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The latch arrangement as defined in claim 12 in which the pivot mounts the lock/unlock lever on a chassis of the latch arrangement.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The latch arrangement as defined in claim 12 in which the lock/unlock lever remains stationary during said subsequent movement of the manually actuable element.

15-16. (CANCELLED)

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17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A latch arrangement as defined in claim 16~~ A latch arrangement comprising:

~~a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element does not cause unlatching and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position, and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment operable to move a latch release element, movement of the release mechanism with the control element in the unlocked condition causes the abutment to move in a first path, and movement of the release mechanism with the control element in the locked condition causes the abutment to move in a second path, differing from the first path, in which the first path passes through the unlocked position of the latch release element, wherein the release mechanism is designed to return to the rest position from the release position upon release of the manually actuatable element and the release mechanism is biased to the rest position by resilient member, in which the resilient means includes member including a first resilient member means biasing the release mechanism to the unlocked position from the released position and a second resilient member means biasing the release mechanism to the rest position from the unlock/unlocked position.~~

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18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A latch arrangement ~~as defined in claim 1 comprising:~~
~~a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control element, the~~
~~latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of~~
~~being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position~~
~~to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the control element~~
~~having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element does not cause~~
~~unlatching and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually~~
~~actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position, and during subsequent~~
~~movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release~~
~~position, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment operable to move~~
~~a latch release element, movement of the release mechanism with the control element in the~~
~~unlocked condition causes the abutment to move in a first path, and movement of the release~~
~~mechanism with the control element in the locked condition causes the abutment to move in a~~
~~second path, differing from the first path, in which the first path passes through the unlocked~~
~~position of the latch release element, wherein in which the latch is further movable between a~~
~~latched and released position by a powered released release actuator.~~
19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The latch arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which the control element is movable between the locked and unlocked conditions by manual operation of a coded security device.

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20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A latch arrangement comprising;

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment movable along first and second paths and operable to move a latch release element, the first and second paths being different, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the abutment along the second path and does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally arcuately so that the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally linearly so that the release mechanism achieves the release position, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by a control pawl to provide for the locked condition.

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21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A latch arrangement comprising;

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position along a first path through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the release mechanism along a second path that does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism moves along the first path and achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position in which a part of the release mechanism is held in the rest position by a magnet of the control element when the control element is in the locked condition thereby preventing the release mechanism from moving to the release position, and in which said part of the release mechanism is not held in the rest position by the magnet when the control element is in the unlocked condition, thereby allowing the release mechanism to move to the release position, wherein the locked condition can additionally be provided by the part of the release mechanism being retained in the rest position by a control pawl to provide for the locked condition.

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22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A latch for a vehicle door comprising:

a manually actuatable element;

a release mechanism movable by the said manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein it said release mechanism unlatches said the latch, said release mechanism comprises a release link having an abutment operable to move along a first path aligned with said a latch release element and a second path mis-aligned with a said latch release element, wherein movement of said abutment along said first path is different than movement of said abutment along said second path; and

a control element having a locked condition at which actuation of said manually actuatable element does not cause unlatching of said latch and an unlocked condition where initial movement of said manually actuatable element causes said abutment of said release link to align with the said latch release element such that during subsequent movement of said manually actuatable element, said release mechanism is moved to said release position, wherein part of said release mechanism is retained in said rest position by a control pawl to provide for said locked condition.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said release mechanism further comprises a lock arm pivotal about a first pivot when said control element is in said unlocked condition, and said lock arm is fixed when said control element is in said locked condition.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch as recited in claim 23, wherein said release link is movable along said first path into alignment with said latch release element with said lock arm pivotal about said first pivot, and movable along said second path into a mis-aligned position with said latch release element when said lock arm is fixed.

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25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said control element comprises a magnet.

26. (CANCELLED)

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The latch as recited in claim 22, further comprising a biasing member biasing said release mechanism toward said rest position.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein a portion of said first path is transverse to said second path.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said first path includes an arcuate portion and a linear portion parallel to a direction of movement of said latch release element.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said first path includes a component transverse to said second path and a component substantially parallel to said second path.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said first path includes an arcuate portion and a linear portion with the arcuate portion being transverse with the linear portion.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein a portion of said first path is transverse to said second path.

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33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said first path includes an arcuate portion and a linear portion parallel to a direction of movement of said release element.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said first path includes a component transverse to said second path and a component substantially parallel to said second path.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said first path includes an arcuate portion and a linear portion with the arcuate portion being transverse with the linear portion.

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36. (NEW) A latch arrangement comprising;

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment movable along first and second paths and is operable to move a latch release element, the first and second paths being different, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the abutment along the second path and does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally arcuately so that the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally linearly so that the release mechanism achieves the release position, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by the control element to provide for the locked condition and said part of the release mechanism is a lock/unlock lever which is retained in a first position when the control element is in the locked condition and is allowed to be moved to a second position when the control element is in the unlocked condition.

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37. (NEW) A latch arrangement comprising;

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment movable along first and second paths and operable to move a latch release element, the first and second paths being different, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the abutment along the second path and does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally arcuately so that the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally linearly so that the release mechanism achieves the release position, wherein the release mechanism is designed to return to the rest position from the release position upon release of the manually actuatable element and the release mechanism is biased to the rest position by a resilient member in which the resilient member includes a first resilient member biasing the release mechanism to the unlocked position from the release position and a second resilient member biasing the release mechanism to the rest position from the unlocked position.

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38. (NEW) A latch arrangement comprising:

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment movable along first and second paths and operable to move a latch release element, the first and second paths being different, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the abutment along the second path and does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally arcuately so that the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally linearly so that the release mechanism achieves the release position, wherein the latch is further movable between a latched and released position by a powered release actuator.

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39. (NEW) A latch arrangement comprising;

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position along a first path through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the release mechanism along a second path that does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism moves along the first path and achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position in which a part of the release mechanism is held in the rest position by a magnet of the control element when the control element is in the locked condition thereby preventing the release mechanism from moving to the release position, and in which said part of the release mechanism is not held in the rest position by the magnet when the control element is in the unlocked condition, thereby allowing the release mechanism to move to the release position, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by the control element to provide for the locked condition and said part of the release mechanism is a lock/unlock lever which is retained in a first position when the control element is in the locked condition and is allowed to be moved to a second position when the control element is in the unlocked condition.

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40. (NEW) A latch arrangement comprising;

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position along a first path through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the release mechanism along a second path that does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism moves along the first path and achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position in which a part of the release mechanism is held in the rest position by a magnet of the control element when the control element is in the locked condition thereby preventing the release mechanism from moving to the release position, and in which said part of the release mechanism is not held in the rest position by the magnet when the control element is in the unlocked condition, thereby allowing the release mechanism to move to the release position, wherein the release mechanism is designed to return to the rest position from the release position upon release of the manually actuatable element and the release mechanism is biased to the rest position by a resilient member, the resilient member including a first resilient member biasing the release mechanism to the unlocked position from the release position and a second resilient member biasing the release mechanism to the rest position from the unlocked position.

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41. (NEW) A latch arrangement comprising;

a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element and a control element, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position along a first path through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the control element having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the release mechanism along a second path that does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism moves along the first path and achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position in which a part of the release mechanism is held in the rest position by a magnet of the control element when the control element is in the locked condition thereby preventing the release mechanism from moving to the release position, and in which said part of the release mechanism is not held in the rest position by the magnet when the control element is in the unlocked condition, thereby allowing the release mechanism to move to the release position, wherein the latch is further movable between a latched and released position by a powered release actuator.

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42. (NEW) A latch for a vehicle door comprising:

a manually actuatable element;

a release mechanism movable by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein said release mechanism unlatches said latch, said release mechanism comprises a release link having an abutment operable to move along a first path aligned with a latch release element and a second path mis-aligned with said latch release element, wherein movement of said abutment along said first path is different than movement of said abutment along said second path; and

a control element having a locked condition at which actuation of said manually actuatable element does not cause unlatching of said latch and an unlocked condition where initial movement of said manually actuatable element causes said abutment of said release link to align with said latch release element such that during subsequent movement of said manually actuatable element, said release mechanism is moved to said release position in which said first path passes through said unlocked position of said latch release element, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by said control element to provide for said locked condition and said part of said release mechanism is a lock/unlock lever which is retained in a first position when said control element is in said locked condition and is allowed to be moved to a second position when said control element is in said unlocked condition.

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43. (NEW) A latch for a vehicle door comprising:

a manually actuatable element;

a release mechanism movable by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, said release mechanism comprises a release link having an abutment operable to move along a first path aligned with a latch release element and a second path mis-aligned with said latch release element, wherein movement of said abutment along said first path is different than movement of said abutment along said second path; and

a control element having a locked condition at which actuation of said manually actuatable element does not cause unlatching of said latch and an unlocked condition where initial movement of said manually actuatable element causes said abutment of said release link to align with said release element such that during subsequent movement of said manually actuatable element, said latch release mechanism is moved to said release position, wherein said release mechanism is designed to return to the rest position from the release position upon release of said manually actuatable element and said release mechanism is biased to said rest position by a resilient member in which said resilient member includes a first resilient member biasing said release mechanism to said unlocked position from said release position and a second resilient member biasing said release mechanism to said rest position from said unlocked position.

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44. (NEW) A latch for a vehicle door comprising:
a manually actuatable element;
a release mechanism movable by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein said release mechanism unlatches said latch, said release mechanism comprises a release link having an abutment operable to move along a first path aligned with a latch release element and a second path mis-aligned with said latch release element, wherein movement of said abutment along said first path is different than movement of said abutment along said second path; and
a control element having a locked condition at which actuation of said manually actuatable element does not cause unlatching of said latch and an unlocked condition where initial movement of said manually actuatable element causes said abutment of said release link to align with said latch release element such that during subsequent movement of said manually actuatable element, said latch release mechanism is moved to said release position, wherein said latch is further movable between a latched and a released position by a powered release actuator.
45. (NEW) The latch arrangement as recited in claim 9, in which said part of the release mechanism is retained by magnetic attraction.
46. (NEW) The latch arrangement as recited in claim 9, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by a control pawl to provide for the locked condition.
47. (NEW) The latch arrangement as recited in claim 20, in which said the locked condition can additionally be provided by part of the release mechanism being retained by magnetic attraction.
48. (NEW) The latch arrangement as recited in 36, in which said part of the release mechanism is retained by magnetic attraction.

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49. (NEW)The latch arrangement as recited in claim 36, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by a control pawl to provide for the locked condition.

50. (NEW)The latch as recited in claim 22, in which said locked condition can additionally be provided by part of the release mechanism being retained by magnetic attraction.

51. (NEW)The latch of claim 42, in which said part of the release mechanism is retained by magnetic attraction.

52. (NEW)The latch as recited in claim 42, wherein a part of the release mechanism is retained in the rest position by a control pawl to provide for the locked condition.

53. (NEW)The latch as recited in claim 39, in which said locked condition can additionally be provided by a part of the release mechanism being retained in the rest position by a control pawl to provide for the locked condition.